



Ag in Action

May / June 2005

From: The Director's Desk

Director
Donald Butler
Editor
Katie Decker

In this Issue:

Justice for Cow Killers	2
ADA Participates in Ag Literacy Day	2
SAL on Bioterrorism and Latest Technology	3
Extensionists of the Year	4
Southwest Horticulture Annual Day of Education	4
Southwest Landscape and Nursery Expo	4
Arizona Cowbelles Host National Cattle-Women	5
SECC Rolls the Dice	6
Hires and Retires	7-8
Birthdays & Announcements	9

I want to take this opportunity to address the recent finding of three cases of Vesicular Stomatitis in horses in our state. As many of you know, this disease causes blister-like lesions to form in the mouth and on the dental pad, tongue, lips, nostrils and hooves and the disease often mimics foot-and-mouth disease. One premise was discovered in Wittmann and two other premises in Camp Verde.

It is important to point out that Arizona is not the only state to have a resurgence of this disease: New Mexico announced two weeks ago that it found a case in Grant County. Last year, Texas, New Mexico and Colorado had a problem with V.S., but Arizona managed to escape without any cases. This year, Arizona is second to New Mexico in detecting the disease, which occurs normally in five to eight year cycles.

It has been a number of years since we have seen a case in the Grand Canyon State and as a result, the Department has taken active measures to try and solve this problem. First, we have quarantined the effected premises, helping to ensure isolation of the disease. Second, veterinarians around our state have been alerted to the situation. Third, we have contacted our counterparts in their respective states and given them the heads-up on these findings. Fourth, we will be surveying animals near these premises to see if they have been affected.

This disease has the power to create a financial loss for our livestock producers and this is why we, at the Department of Agriculture, are doing everything possible to prevent the loss of animals and revenue related to this illness.

Agency Officer Gets Justice for Cow Killers



Two men pleaded guilty to criminal damage in Pinal County, after Animal Health and Welfare Officer Charles Rex and Pinal Deputy County Attorney Sara Priestley went after the case of five pregnant cows shot to death.

Michael Rodriguez, 22 years old, and his cousin, Anthony Rodruiguez, 19 years old, allegedly went out to the Shepley Ranch in October of 2004 and killed the animals. Officer Rex was called out the next day and

discovered the first four cows had four to five wounds in the stomach and the fifth cow showed damage in her ribs. The officer also found bullet casings nearby and a metal detector was used to find the bullets in the animals.

The two men have accepted the plea agreement and the prosecuting attorney is pleased with the result. "What I'm hoping for is probation because neither has a criminal record," said Priestley. In addition, the men must make full restitution to Pet Shepley, the owner of the animals. A restitution hearing must be scheduled to determine the worth of the animals. The two convicts must then serve 100 hours of community service at Pinal County Animal Control or Shepley Ranch.



Arizona Department of Agriculture Participates in Ag Literacy Day



Bodo Diehn, an Environmental Specialist for ADA, reads to children at a local elementary school in Phoenix.

As part of Arizona Agriculture Literacy Day, five employees with the Department read to school children around Arizona. Bodo Diehn of the Environmental Services Division read the book "If it weren't for Farmers" to two third-grade classes at Pima Elementary School in Scottsdale. The children were fascinated and bombarded him with questions for almost an hour. He had to explain, among other things, how a milking machine works, what "organic farming" means, where in Arizona pistachios are grown, and how one gets a water sample out of a monitoring well. It would have been quite a challenge but for the fact that his family have been farmers for generations. Marcia Colquitt, Jack Peterson, James Wilkerson and Katie Decker with the Arizona Department of Agriculture also read at schools.

Lab's Latest: SAL Takes On Bioterrorism and Latest Technology

Anna Pfender, Laboratory Manager

Vector Borne Disease and Bioterrorism Conference

Lab Director Doug Marsh and Lab Managers Dave Mills, Dave Klein and Anna Pfender attended the 5th Annual Joint Vector-Borne/Zoonotic Diseases & Bioterrorism/Public Health Threats Conference in Mesa, AZ on April 12-14, 2005. One purpose of the meeting was to disseminate information on human disease threats, intentional or incidental, to agencies in the state and region that would be involved in containing such threats, either in a regulatory role or in implementation of pest control. The second day focused on bioterrorism preparedness at the federal, state and local levels, reflecting on actual coordinated responses to some recent catastrophic events such as the Florida hurricanes and the Indian Ocean tsunami. The third day was comprised of two workshops, one about West Nile Virus and the other about bioterrorism.

It was interesting to note, that for the first time at this event, agroterrorism was mentioned as a major risk factor in Arizona that needs to be addressed.

Representatives at the meeting included workers from the federal Centers for Disease Control (CDC), the Office of Homeland Security, the Arizona Department of Agriculture, the Arizona Department of Health Services, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Hopi Tribe, county departments of health, the University of Arizona Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory, the USDA, and the pest control industry.

Laboratory Information Management System Workshop

During the first week of May, Doug Marsh and Paul Cook attended the annual LIMS User's Conference and Workshop in San Diego, California. LabVantage representatives opened the meeting with a presentation on the state of the company, the LIMS product and its future direction. Following were presentations on possible upgrades, migration strategies and tips on how to use current technologies. Important issues such as Data Archiving and Web Presentation were addressed with solutions for these problems becoming available soon.

Doug and Paul were able to discuss and compare the Department's LIMS experiences with users from all around the globe. Several people had unique customization strategies. While those ideas may not be perfect for the Department, they led to, "Hey, what if I try this instead?"

On Thursday and Friday, Paul stayed to attend a workshop on Evergreen Studio Web Design. Evergreen Studio makes it possible to query data out of the LIMS and present it on the internet. Sample pages were easy to configure and customize. Security issues were addressed as well.

In addition, Doug and Paul were able to have a private meeting with LabVantage representatives to discuss our current problems and possible upgrade paths.

On a lighter note, Paul made his way down to Mission Bay one evening to work on his sail boarding skills. It was chilly at first, but after a while, the water was fine. How did he do? Well, as a sail boarder, Paul makes a fine chemist.

Hats Off to You! Extensionists of the Year Named



In recognition of time and talent, Cheryl Goar, Executive Director of the Arizona Nursery Association, and Bas Aja, Director of the Arizona Cattlemen's Association, received the 2005 Extensionist of the Year Award at the Annual Spring Awards Recognition Banquet.

The award, a citation, medallion, and personal photograph of the recipient recognizes, "A resident of the state of Arizona who has contributed time and talent, through Cooperative Extension, to citizens of their community and the state."

Extension faculty and staff nominate an individual based on the extent of the service and how it has benefited the community, the state and its citizens.

Arizona Nursery Association Hosts SHADE 2005

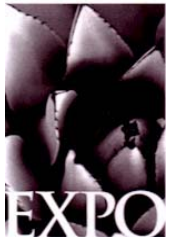


The Arizona Nursery Association (ANA) invites you to attend our Southwest Horticulture Annual Day of Education (SHADE 2005) on August 12, 2005. This one-day education seminar is for landscape and nursery professionals and will be held at the beautiful Wyndham Buttes Resort in Tempe, Arizona. Registration is \$75 and includes lunch. Call the ANA at (480) 966-1610 to register.

If you want to take advantage of the amenities of the Resort, make your room reservations by July 21, 2005, to receive a special room rate of only \$99. Call the Wyndham Buttes Resort for room reservations, (800) 843-1986 or (602) 225-9000.

Southwest Landscape and Nursery Expo Changes Format

SOUTHWEST
LANDSCAPE
& NURSERY



EXPO

Come to the premier of Arizona's first multi-level arena based trade show and the Arizona Nursery Association's first venture into the one-day green industry trade show event! Clear your calendar for Wednesday, November 9, 2005, at the Glendale Arena, 9400 W. Maryland Ave., Glendale, AZ 85305. Admission is free to all Green Industry professionals.

Booth space for a 10x10 is \$500 for Arizona Nursery Association members and \$625 for non-members. Exhibit space is selling fast: Contact ANA at (480) 966-1610 or e-mail us at info@azna.org, to reserve your space today!

Arizona Cowbelles Host American National CattleWomen

Linda Vensel, Procurement Manager CPPB



The American National CattleWomen (ANCW), Inc. is one of the longest standing cattle women organizations. Established in 1952 as a national, nonprofit, membership organization, it is a voice for women who share a passion for the U.S. beef industry. Our mission is to promote and support the industry, and encourage women involved in beef and

related agribusiness. ANCW offers leadership development, education, volunteer opportunities, national programs, and participates in the strategic planning process of the cattle industry.



One of the meeting rooms from the ANCW Region VI Conference.

The American National CattleWomen has two national programs funded by America's Beef Producers through the Cattlemen's Beef Board—the National Beef Cookoff® and the National Beef Ambassador Program.

The ANCW Region VI meeting was hosted by the Arizona State Cowbelles, April 21-23, 2005 at the Fiesta Inn in Tempe, AZ. Leadership in state Cowbelle and Cattlewomen groups are meeting to discuss what works and doesn't work within their states in beef promotion and education, and to hear presentations about current issues in the Beef Industry -- Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, New Mexico and Utah make up the Region VI states.

It is important to note that this organization was founded in Douglas, Arizona, in 1939 as Cowbelle meetings. The idea of Cowbelles grew quickly throughout all of the states, and in 1947, the Arizona State Cowbelles was formed; later in 1952, the American National CowBelles formed. The American National CowBelles later changed their name to the American National CattleWomen.



Leaders in attendance included Vicki Wilkinson of Arizona - Past-President, Patti Townsend of New Mexico - Past-President, Nancy Stirling-Neuhauser of South Dakota - ANCW President-Elect and Marlene Strickland of Florida - ANCW President.

State Employee Charitable Campaign Rolls the Dice

Beth Mania, Fiscal Services Manager



Our “Season Opener” cookout and Diamondbacks raffle was a huge success! State employees from the Department of Agriculture and some of the surrounding agencies gathered in the parking lot behind 1688 W. Adams for a hotdog/hamburger cookout to benefit SECC. The weather was beautiful, the food was excellent and the net proceeds were \$465.79. Teresa Ruiz from the Plant Services Division was the winner of the Diamondbacks raffle. **CONGRATULATIONS**

TERESA!

A special **THANK YOU** goes out to Sterling Institutional Food Services, who donated the hot-dogs and hamburgers for this event. A heartfelt **THANK YOU** is also due to the following employees that gave of their time to make this a success: Stacie Archuletta, Deborah Atkinson, Theresa Chrisostomo, Paul Cook, Ed deSantiago, Grace Hottel, David Klein, Maria Lopez, Dave Mills, Miso Miovcic, Armando Montoya, Barbara Morphew, Lisa Pendrick, Anna Pfender, Pat Stevens, Linda Vensel and Jennifer Weber.



RESERVE YOUR BUS SEAT NOW! The bus is going to the Flamingo Laughlin Resort and Casino on Saturday, June 25th, 2005 and a mere \$25.00 will reserve your seat. What do you get for \$25.00? You will receive bus transportation, a host-casino “fun book”, an all-you-can-eat buffet and \$10.00 in spending money upon arrival. **WHAT A DEAL!** Reservations will be accepted through

Friday, May 27, 2005. Payment must be made to reserve your space and is non-refundable, however you may send a replacement.

What’s better than that? Well, the net proceeds will benefit Literacy Volunteers of Maricopa County, Inc., a non-profit organization that is part of the State Employees Charitable Campaign. They teach adults, 16 years and older, how to read, write, speak English and prepare for the GED. Make your reservation now and help SECC to help others. For questions, contact Pat Stevens (602.542.4316), Beth Mania (602.542.3259) or any SECC committee member and remember **TOGETHER WE WIN.**

Hires and Retires



My name is Bridget Kidd. I'm 25 years old. I moved to San Simon in November of 2004. I lived in Tucson for 20 years and graduated from Pueblo High School in 1998. My hobbies are scrapbooking, fishing, camping, hunting, riding horses and re-modeling my house.



Hello, my name is Rebecca Land. I have been hired as an Agriculture Inspector II, in the Yuma Plant Services Division, where I was initially hired as a Seasonal Inspector for the Emergency Mediterranean Fruit Fly program. I most recently lived in Bard, California, where I was the lead Ag Biologist for Imperial County, Winterhaven Division. I am currently a student at Arizona Western College working on an Agriculture degree with a minor in English and Spanish. I have been married for thirteen years and have a fourteen-year-old daughter and ten-year-old son. My hobbies include camping, hiking, swimming, water skiing, riding horses, four-wheeling, and riding ATV's. My goals are to see my kids finish college and then travel the world.



My name is Dorothy Schurman and I moved to San Simon from Montana 8 years ago. I work as a seasonal trapper for the ADA. I have 3 kids and 4 grandkids.



Anna Wells joined the Fiscal Services team on March 28, 2005. Anna has been in state service for over 15 years and has worked for various state agencies such as ADOT/MVD, ADOT/Arizona Highways Magazine and ADOA Telecommunications. Her major responsibilities here at ADA will include fixed assets/inventory; facilities management and she will serve as the liaison with Fleet Management and AZNET (our new telecommunications provider).

During her free time, Anna enjoys going to the movies, reading and shopping 'til she drops. If you haven't already met Anna, please stop by and say hello! She is located on the 2nd floor in the ADA building and can be reached at 602-542-0870 or at Ajenness-wells.azda.gov.



Jim Turner will be retiring from the Department of Agriculture on May 20. Jim has been with the Department and its predecessors for 17 years and 5 months. Jim plans on doing whatever he wants whenever he wants. Specifically, he knows it will involve fishing, home projects, and visiting relatives and friends back in Arkansas and Louisiana. In asking Jim if he would like to write a retirement article and share any good stories he has been involved with over all the years he has worked for us, he said, "No, there are too many good ones. Go ahead and write something, but keep it short and sweet, kind of like me!" We wish Jim the best and a very enjoyable retirement.

Hired: December 21, 1987
Retired: May 20, 2005

Birthdays for May / June 2005

<i>Sun</i>	<i>Mon</i>	<i>Tue</i>	<i>Wed</i>	<i>Thu</i>	<i>Fri</i>	<i>Sat</i>
						May 14 James Self
15	16	17	18 Stewart Jacobson Karin Streng	19 Carrie Johnson Cherye McDonald	20	21 Adrian Gumowski Helen Nasios
22	23	24	25	26	27 Danny Arce Kevin McFee	28 Deborah Atkinson Paul Cook
29 Michael Reimer Katie Thomas	30 Terry Tully	31	June 1	2 Carolina Menjivar	3 Jesus Campa	4
5 Sandra Moore	6	7	8	9	10 Michael Engelhardt	11
12 Dawn Tillery	13	14	15 Rebekah Horton	16 Kathleen Ryan	17 Michael Comeau	18